

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 04575 221129Z
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /007 W
-----082305 221158Z /15

P 221216Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4419

UNCLAS LONDON 04575

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CGEN, UK
SUBJ: JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE: PAYMENT OF WITNESSES'
EXPENSES

1. LEGAL SECRETARIAT OF MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAS
APPROACHED EMBASSY CONCERNING PAYMENT OF EXPENSES FOR
TWO BRITISH NAVAL SEAMEN TO ATTEND TRIAL IN TITUSVILLE,
FLORIDA. SEAMEN THOMPSON AND SYASS, PRESENTLY IN UK,
HAVE BEEN CITED AS PRINCIPAL PROSECUTION WITNESSES IN
CRIMINAL CASE STEMMING FROM STABBING OF THOMPSON WHILE
HE ON SHORE LEAVE FROM BRITISH NAVAL SHIP FEB 17, 1978.
THEY ARE REQUESTED TO APPEAR BEFORE CIRCUIT COURT IN
TITUSVILLE APRIL 11.

2. MINDEF WISHES TO KNOW IF COURT WILL PAY EXPENSES FOR
THOMPSON AND SYASS TO TRAVEL TO FLORIDA FROM UK TO
APPEAR. MINDEF OFFICIAL POINTED OUT THAT IN
SIMILAR CASE SUCH EXPENSES WOULD BE BORNE BY
BRITISH COURT.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPARTMENT
CONTACT COURT URGENTLY AND INFORM EMBASSY
TELEGRAPHICALLY OF THEIR REPLY.

BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LONDON04575
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780126-0092
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780338/aaaabfwt.tel
Line Count: 47
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION SCS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3241087
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE: PAYMENT OF WITNESSES' EXPENSES
TAGS: CGEN, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3764c1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014